

REMARKS

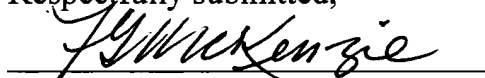
Claims 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102. The basis for this rejection is overcome by the cancellation of claims 14-20 in this amendment.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hayakawa (the '262 patent) in view of Yu (the '009 patent). The Office action acknowledges that the '262 patent fails to teach a planetary gear arrangement in which the ring gear is driveably connected to the output shaft. The '009 patent is cited for its alleged disclosure of a planetary gear arrangement in which the ring gear is driveably connected to the output shaft.

But the date of the '009 application of Yu is not good against applicant's effective filing date, which is November 12, 2003. The date of the '009 application is November 4, 2004, nearly one year later than the filing date of the present application. The claims of this application cannot be rejected on the basis of a disclosure in a reference whose effective date follows that of the this application. It appears that the rejection of claims 1-13 is inadvertent and incurably defective.

The Office action concedes that Hayakawa does not disclose the invention defined by claims 1-13. Those claims are patentably distinguished over the cited prior art as discussed in the remarks above. Claims 1-13, as amended, appear now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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